

PAINTED DESERT

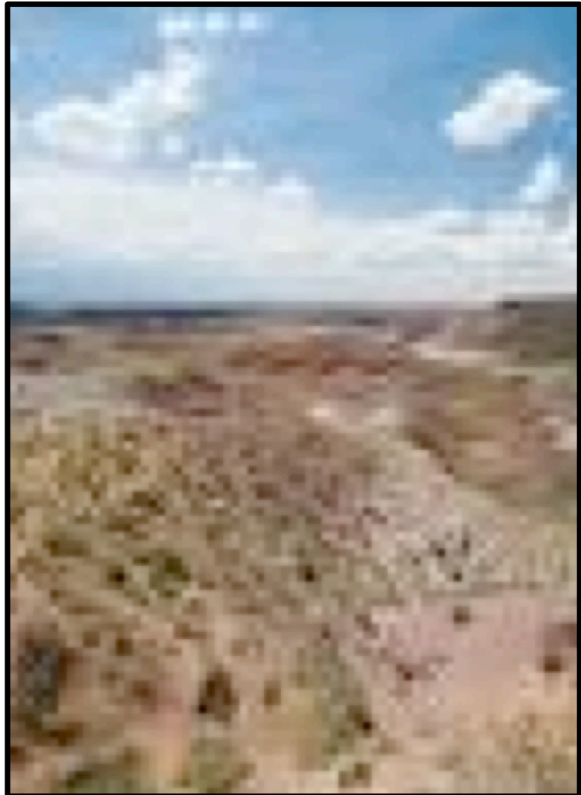
[http://www.arizona-leisure.com/
painted-desert.html](http://www.arizona-leisure.com/painted-desert.html)





It begins about 30 miles north of Cameron, Arizona near the southeastern rim of the Grand Canyon to the Petrified Forest about 26 miles east of Holbrook, AZ.

The Painted Desert derives its name for the multitude of colors ranging from lavenders to shades of gray with vibrant colors of red, orange and pink.



The Painted Desert encompasses over 93,500 acres and stretches over 160 miles.

It took millions upon millions of years for nature to create this natural canvas of unimaginable design that some describe it as a multi-colored layered cake.

Colorful sediments of bentonite clay and sandstone, stacked in elegant layers, feed off the setting Arizona sun in an ever-changing display of colorful splendor.

Spanish explorers who passed through are said to have named it "El Desierto Pintado", when confronted with the colorful horizon.

The most visited area of the Painted Desert is its eastern-end about 115 miles east of Flagstaff, Arizona.

While life went on here amongst the painted peaks, modern civilization didn't begin to discover its existence until the 16th century.

